THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

Schedule R1 of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules prescribe standards for sterile Hypodermic Syringes for single use *vide* IS 10258 —1982. These standards specify test for pyrogen and undue toxicity. These standards have now been replaced by IS 10258 — 2002 corresponding to ISO 7886-1-1993 wherein the test for pyrogen and undue toxicity has been deleted. The new standards are under printing by BIS. Accordingly the matter will now be taken up by Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTAB) for necessary amendment in Sch. R1 in respect of standards of sterile Hypodermic Syringes for single use on the basis of latest BIS standards IS 10258 — 2002.

(c) Does not arise.

Free condoms at liquor vendors

2685. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a scheme of free condoms at liquor vendors has been launched with a view to checking spread of AIDS;

(b) whether this scheme will be introduced on a large scale in the country; and

(c) the other details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, a scheme for free distribution of condoms through NGOs and health functionaries is in place, under the National AIDS Control Programme, to make condoms accessible to target population.

Utilization of funds by States

†2686. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many States are not making proper utilization of funds provided under Central schemes;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether Government have issued any directive or taken any action for the proper utilization of funds; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) Funds provided to States under National Health Programmes are utilised with due care as per set procedures and for the purpose for which they are provided.

(b) and (c) To ensure proper utilization of funds, guidelines have been circulated to all States/District Disease Control Societies. Utilisation of funds is also monitored through regular reports, review meetings, both at the Centre and the States, audit reports and utilisation certificates.

Rate of blood in Delhi

†2687. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether one unit of blood is being sold at a minimum of two thousand rupees in Delhi;

(b) if so, whether rate of blood differs in Government and Private Institutions;

(c) whether Government propose to bring the sale of blood under price control system; and

(d) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) No, Sir. Blood is not sold as such, as professional blood donation has been banned.

(b) However, some expenditure is incurred by the blood banks for processing of blood, for example, towards mandatory tests for transfusion. This expenditure, estimated to be around Rs.500/- per unit of blood, is recovered from patients in the form of service charges by the blood banks. It is true that private blood banks often undertake additional tests, over and above the mandatory ones, and, as such, possibly the service charges recovered by these private blood banks varies.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.